

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the thorough examination of the present application as evidenced by the Office Action of July 10, 2009 (hereinafter "Office Action"). In response, Applicants have carefully considered the Examiner's arguments and the teachings of the cited references, and have amended the pending claims as indicated above to clarify the recitations thereof. In particular, Claim 1 has been amended to include the recitations of Claim 18 (which has been canceled), and Claims 20 and 39 have been amended to clarify the recitations thereof. Also, new Claims 45-47 have been added. Support for these new claims can be found, for example, at Page 3, lines 27-31, and Page 6, lines 16-19, of the present specification as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request further consideration of the pending claims for at least the reasons provided below.

Independent Claim 1 Is Patentable Over Roth and Braitberg

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-13, 15-20, 23-24, 26-32, 34-35, 37 and 39 - 41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0049388 to Roth et al. ("Roth") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,479,479 to Braitberg et al. ("Braitberg"). *See* Office Action, Page 2. Amended Claim 1 recites:

1. An apparatus, comprising:
a display configured to display various readable data; and
a control unit configured to extract a part of the displayed data and configured to send the extracted part of the displayed data to a speech generating device that is configured to generate a speech signal from the extracted part of the displayed data,
wherein the speech generating device comprises a functional cover that is external to and physically attachable to the apparatus, and wherein the functional cover comprises a shell configured to cover at least a substantial portion of a front of the apparatus and a microprocessor configured to cooperate with the control unit of the apparatus. (*Emphasis added*).

In its rejection of Claim 1, the Office Action concedes that Roth does not disclose or suggest a speech generating device that is external and physically attachable to the apparatus described therein, but relies on Braitberg as disclosing an external device that is attachable to an apparatus using a physical cable connection. *See* Office Action, Page 3.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Roth and Braitberg fail to disclose or suggest at least the above-highlighted recitations of Claim 1, for at least the following reasons.

First, Applicants submit that it would not be obvious to modify the device of Roth in light of the teachings of Braitberg. In particular, while Braitberg may indeed disclose an external device 200 that is physically attachable to a cellular telephone 10, Roth discloses a text-to-speech (TTS) unit that is internal to the PDA 900 described therein. *See* Roth, Fig. 9 ("Text-To-Speech Programming" included in "Mass Storage Device" 1017). Accordingly, as Roth already includes an internal TTS unit, providing an external TTS or other speech generating device in addition to the internal TTS would be redundant in the device 900 of Roth. Thus, Roth teaches away from use with an external speech generating device.

Moreover, as Roth is already configured to use its internal TTS to "say" the input text (see Roth, Paragraphs 0371 to 0373), modifying Roth to send extracted text to an external device (such as the external device 200 of Braitberg) for speech conversion would require a change in the principle of operation of Roth. As noted in the MPEP, "[i]f the proposed modification or combination of the prior art would change the principle of operation of the prior art invention being modified, then the teachings of the references are not sufficient to render the claims *prima facie* obvious." MPEP, §2143.01(VI) (*citations omitted*). Accordingly, as modifying Roth to be compatible with an external speech generating device would be both redundant and would change the principle of operation of Roth, Applicants submit that it would not be obvious to modify Roth as asserted by the Office Action to provide the recitations of Claim 1, and indeed, that Roth teaches away from such a modification.

Second, even if the teachings of Roth were somehow combined with those of Braitberg as alleged by the Office Action, the combination does not disclose or suggest a speech generating device that "is external to and physically attachable to the apparatus" of Roth. In particular, while Braitberg may disclose an external car kit controller 200 that is physically attachable to a cellular telephone 10 through an interconnect cable 46 (see Braitberg, Figure 14), nowhere do the cited portions of Braitberg disclose or suggest that the external device 200 includes a speech generating device therein. *See* Braitberg, Col. 9, lines 10-14 and Col. 14, lines 56-64. Moreover, as Roth already includes an internal TTS, it would not be obvious to modify the external device 200 of Braitberg to include an additional speech

generating device. Thus, at best, the combination of Roth and Braitberg would disclose a PDA 900 that is configured to be connected to an external car kit controller 200 that does not include a speech generating device, rather than a speech generating device that "is external to and physically attachable to the apparatus," as recited by Claim 1.

Third, neither Roth nor Braitberg disclose or suggest providing a speech generating device as a functional cover that is configured to be attached to a surface of an apparatus. In its rejection of Claim 18 (the recitations of which are included in amended Claim 1), the Office Action relies on Figure 59 of Roth as disclosing such a functional cover (*see* Office Action, Page 5); however, the cited portion of Roth merely illustrates the front cover of a cellphone 5900, not an external speech generating device that is physically attachable to a surface of the cellphone 5900. *See* Roth, Figure 59. Indeed, as noted above, the combination of Roth and Braitberg does not disclose or suggest an externally and physically attachable speech generating device; thus, the combination of Roth and Braitberg necessarily does not disclose or suggest providing an external and physically attachable functional cover including such a speech generating device. Accordingly, the combination of Roth and Braitberg fails to disclose or suggest a speech generating device as a functional cover that "comprises a shell configured to cover a front of the apparatus," as recited by Claim 1.

Fourth, the Office Action fails to provide articulated reasoning as to why one of ordinary skill in the art would combine the teachings of Roth and Braitberg. Rather, the Office Action merely asserts that the combination would have been obvious "to provide a universal physical electrical connection to a plurality of communication devices." Office Action, Page 4. However, as noted above, the device 900 of Roth is already configured to provide a TTS function, and thus, would not require further connection to a plurality of external devices to provide this function. Accordingly, Applicants submit that such conclusory reasoning fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. *See* MPEP § 2142 ("rejections on obviousness cannot be sustained with mere conclusory statements; instead, there must be some articulated reasoning with some rational underpinning to support the legal conclusion of obviousness.").

As the cited portions of Roth and Braitberg fail to disclose or suggest at least the above-highlighted recitations of pending Claim 1, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is patentable for at least the above reasons. Dependent Claims 2-7, 9-13, 15-19, and 45 are patentable at least per the patentability of Claim 1 from which they depend.

Independent Claims 20 and 39 Are Patentable Over Roth and Braitberg

Independent Claims 20 and 39 also stand rejected over the combination of Roth and Braitberg. *See* Office Action, Page 5-7. Amended Claim 20, for example, recites:

20. An apparatus, comprising:
a display configured to display various readable data;
a control unit; and
a speech generating device including a conversion circuit therein
configured to convert received data to a speech signal and configured to be
connected to a speaker system,
wherein the control unit is configured to extract a part of the
displayed data and send the extracted part of the displayed data to the
speech generating device at a controllable rate and in response to
scrolling the displayed data. (*Emphasis added*).

In its rejection of Claim 20, the Office Action asserts that Paragraphs 0371-0373 of Roth disclose the above-highlighted recitations of Claim 20. *See* Office Action, Page 6. However, the cited portion of Roth provides:

[0371] If the user scrolls an item in the correction window, functions 9448 and 9450 use TTS to say the currently highlighted choice and its selection number in response to each such scroll. If the user scrolls a page in a correction window, functions 9452 and 9454 use TTS to say that newly displayed choices as well as indicating the currently highlighted choice.

[0372] When in correction mode, if the user enters a menu, functions 9456 and 9458 use TTS or free recorded audio to say the name of the current menu and all of the choices in the menu and their associated numbers, indicating the current selection position. Preferably this is done with audio cues that indicate to a user that the words being said are menu options.

[0373] If the user scrolls up or down an item in a menu, functions 9460 and 9462 use TTS or pre-recorded audio to say the highlighted choice and then, after a brief pause, any following selections on the currently displayed page of the menu.

Roth, Paragraphs 0371-0373 (*emphasis added*). Accordingly, while the above portion of Roth may generally describe sending highlighted text to a TTS in response to each scroll in a menu and/or a correction window, Roth does not mention controlling the rate at which the highlighted text is sent to the TTS. Rather, Roth appears to send the entire highlighted text or menu item to the TTS, with no rate being specified. Thus, the cited portions of Roth contain no mention of a rate, nor sending data from a control unit to a TTS (or other speech

generating device) "at a controllable rate and in response to scrolling the displayed data," as recited by Claim 1." Nor does the Office Action rely on Braitberg as disclosing these recitations. *See* Office Action, Pages 5-6.

Accordingly, as the cited portions of Roth and Braitberg fail to disclose or suggest at least the above-highlighted recitations of pending Claim 20, Applicants submit that amended Claim 20 is patentable for at least these reasons. Amended Claim 39 includes similar recitations, and is thus patentable for at least similar reasons. Also, dependent Claims 23-37 41-43, and 46-47 are patentable at least per the patentability of Claims 20 and 39 from which they depend.

Many of the Dependent Claims Are Separately Patentable

As discussed above, Applicants note that the dependent claims are patentable at least per the patentability of independent Claims 1, 20, and 39 from which they depend.

Moreover, Applicants submit that various dependent claims are separately patentable.

For example, pending Claim 6 recites, in part, that the control unit is configured to send the extracted portion of the displayed data to the speech generating device "responsive to input of spaces and/or punctuation marks via the keypad." In rejecting Claim 6, the Office Action concedes that Roth and Braitberg fail to disclose or suggest these recitations, but asserts that Paragraphs 0025, 0046, and 0082 of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0014860 to Kivimaki ("Kivimaki") discloses these recitations. *See* Office Action, Page 8. However, while the cited portions of Kivimaki may describe "determining a desired start position from a selection defined by punctuation identifiers" and "outputting speech synthesized text from that [start] position" (Kivimaki, Paragraph 0025), Kivimaki does not disclose or suggest sending data to a TTS (or other speech generating device) responsive to input of the punctuation identifiers. In other words, starting to output speech (e.g., after data is sent to a TTS) based on provided punctuation marks does not disclose or suggest using the input of such marks as a trigger to send data to the TTS. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 6 is separately patentable for at least these reasons. Claims 25 and 42 include similar recitations, and are thus also separately patentable for at least similar reasons.

Furthermore, as each of the remaining dependent claims depends from a base claim that is believed to be in condition for allowance, Applicants do not believe that it is necessary to argue the allowability of each of these claims individually. Applicants do not necessarily

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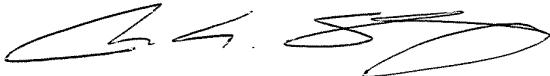
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concur with the interpretation of these claims, or with the bases for rejection set forth in the Office Action. Applicants therefore reserve the right to address the patentability of these claims individually as necessary in the future.

Conclusion

Accordingly, based on the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Thus, Applicants respectfully request allowance of these claims and passing the application to issue. Applicants encourage the Examiner to contact the undersigned to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,



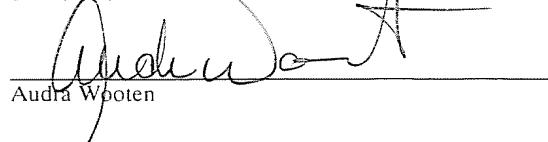
Rohan G. Sabapathyillai
Registration No.: 51,074

USPTO Customer No. 54414

Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec
Post Office Box 37428
Raleigh, North Carolina 27627
Telephone: 919/854-1400
Facsimile: 919/854-1401

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Audra Wooten